

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAPE T 00125 271456Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02
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FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6651
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

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TAGS: PDEV,SF,WA,NA

SUB: NAMIBIA/RHODESIA: SOUTH AFRICAN PRESIDENT'S

REMARKS

FOLLOWING IS THE TRANSCRIPT OF STATE PRESIDENT DIEDERICH'S
ADDRESS ON THE OPENING OF PARLIAMENT DEALING WITH RHODESIA
AND NAMIBIA:

QUOTE: DURING THE PAST YEAR SOUTH AFRICA HAS BEEN ENGAGED
IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE FIVE WESTERN MEMBERS OF THE
SECURITY COUNCIL WITH A VIEW TO OBTAINING INTERNATIONAL
RECOGNITION FOR AN INDEPENDENT SOUTH-WEST AFRICA. IN
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LINE WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S ACCEPTED PRINCIPLE THAT THE
PEOPLE OF SOUTH WEST AFRICA MUST DECIDE THEIR OWN FUTURE,
THE TERRITORY, AS A UNIT, WILL BECOME INDEPENDENT
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THEIR WISHES BEFORE THE END OF
1978. THIS WILL BE PRECEDED BY FREE ELECTIONS FOR A
CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY WHICH WILL IN TURN DECIDE THE
CONSTITUTION FOR SOUTH WEST AFRICA.

NEGOTIATIONS ARE CONTINUING, BUT IN ORDER TO HONOR THE GOVERNMENT'S UNDERTAKINGS, ESPECIALLY IN REGARD TO INDEPENDENCE THIS YEAR, IT IS ESSENTIAL FOR THE ELECTION OF A CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY TO TAKE PLACE TIMELY (SIC). SOUTH AFRICA IS ALSO COMMITTED TO ENSURING THE SAFETY OF THE INHABITANTS OF SOUTH WEST AFRICA AND MAINTAINING LAW AND ORDER UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THE NEW GOVERNMENT DECIDES OTHERWISE.

IT IS A FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE OF SOUTH AFRICA'S FOREIGN POLICY NOT TO INTERFERE IN THE AFFAIRS OF OTHERS. WHILE THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA WOULD PREFER TO SEE A PEACEFUL SOLUTION IN RHODESIA AND IS TRYING WHERE POSSIBLE TO BRING THE VARIOUS PARTIES TOGETHER AND TO POINT OUT ALTERNATIVES, DECISIONS ON THE FUTURE OF RHODESIA REST WITH ITS PEOPLE. SOUTH AFRICA HAS NOTED WITH INTEREST THE PROGRESS BEING MADE IN THIS REGARD IN RHODESIA ITSELF. UNQUOTE.

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